

statement. Not only do I desire that no kind of faction fight be made to secure my nomination but I feel that it would be worse than worthless to have the nomination unless it comes of their own accord from the Republicans, because they feel they need me, and because they feel that the country is ripe for the kind of campaign which is the only campaign I would consent to make. After Lincoln became President the question of retaining the Union was of such absorbing consequence that for the next eighteen months he declined to consider even such a tremendous question as Slavery. He subordinated everything else to the question of the Union. There are certain tremendous national questions affecting our attitude as regards the primary duties of a nation, affecting perhaps the questions whether we are to continue as a nation, which transcend infinitely in importance any question of whether or not the Crane machine or any other machine is to be hurt, is to be opposed, or is to be made an issue in any way. I must not be used in any local fight for any local objects. . . .

"My sole usefulness at present must lie in my continuing to preach nationally the kind of doctrines that I have been preaching for the last eighteen months. Conscientiously and with infinite labor a year ago last Summer and Fall I fought in every kind of locality for local triumph along the lines of Progressive principles. I not only did no good but I am not at all certain that I did not do damage. The effort for me to mix in local affairs and the effort to

mix me in local affairs simply did harm. Very  
possibly no  
use can be made of me nationally, but most  
emphatically it  
is only nationally that any use can be made of  
me, and the  
effort to win anything for me by a faction fight  
anywhere  
will do me damage and cannot from any  
standpoint do  
good.

" Understand me, I would not care whether  
it would do  
me damage or not *if it would do any good to*  
*the nation;*  
but it won't do any good to the nation. If  
this nation is  
to be helped in the least by me, it is to be  
helped by my  
teachings in national and international  
matters. If the